

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A security element comprising ~~(12, 18)~~ with a cover layer ~~(22; 42; 50)~~ having gaps ~~(24; 30, 32, 34, 44)~~ in the form of characters or patterns forming visually and/or machine readable first information, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a printed image ~~(26; 36, 38, 40; 46, 48; 52)~~ forming visually and/or machine readable second information is disposed in the gaps ~~(24; 30, 32, 34, 44)~~ in register, and further wherein the first and second information ~~being~~ is different.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cover layer ~~(22; 42; 50)~~ is opaque at least in partial areas.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cover layer ~~(22; 42; 50)~~ is screened at least in partial areas, said screen being selected from the group consisting ~~being in particular in the form of a dot screen, a line screen or~~ and a screen of repeating similar screen elements.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the cover layer ~~(22; 42; 50)~~ is semitransparent at least in partial areas.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the cover layer ~~(22; 42; 50)~~ comprises a metal coating, the metal coating ~~preferably~~ being selected from the group consisting ~~formed of~~ aluminum, gold, copper, iron, nickel ~~or~~ and an alloy containing one or more of said metals.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ the cover layer ~~(22; 42; 50)~~

contains a dielectric layer structure that produces different color effects in reflected light upon a change of viewing angle.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dielectric layer structure is opaque or semitransparent.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ the security element ~~(12, 18)~~ contains a plastic layer with a surface relief in the form of a diffraction structure embossed thereinto.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ the printed image ~~(26, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 52)~~ is finely structured and/or of high resolution.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the printed image ~~(26, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 52)~~ contains an ink containing pigments selected from the group consisting of luminescent pigments, magnetic pigments, liquid crystal pigments and ~~and/or~~ interference layer pigments.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ the printed image ~~(26, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 52)~~ is multicolored or formed of inks with different pigment content.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ the printed image ~~(26, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 52)~~ forms letters, numbers or geometrical figures.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein at least one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ the printed image ~~(26, 36,~~

~~38, 40, 46, 48, 52~~) is printed into the gaps ~~(24, 30, 32, 34, 44)~~ by a digital printing method.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12, 18)~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the gaps (24, 30, 32, 34, 44)~~ form letters, numbers or geometrical figures.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(12)~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the security element forms a security thread (12) or a tear thread.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security element ~~(18)~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the security element forms a transfer element (18) or a label for protecting an object of value such as a document of value.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A security paper ~~(10)~~ having a security element ~~(12)~~ according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the security element is present in the form of a thread or band.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper ~~(10)~~ according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the security element ~~(12)~~ is embedded into the security paper ~~(10)~~ as a windowed security thread.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper ~~(10)~~ according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the security element is disposed completely on the surface of the security paper ~~(10)~~.

21. (Currently Amended) A document of value having a security element according to claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 16~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] document of value (10) according to claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the printed image (26; 36; 38; 40; 46; 48; 52) disposed in the gaps (24; 30; 32; 34; 44) repeats the motif of another printed image of the security paper (10), such as, for example, a national flag, a denomination, a portrait or an architectural motif.

23. (Currently Amended) An object of value provided with a security element (12; 18) ~~according to any of claims 1 to 16, in particular in the form of a transfer element (18) or label~~ according to claim 1 ~~mounted, preferably glued, on the object of value.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a security element with a printed image and a cover layer, the cover layer having gaps in the form of characters or patterns, comprising first applying ~~characterized in that~~ the cover layer with the gaps ~~is first applied~~ to a carrier film and ~~the~~ then producing the printed image ~~then produced~~ in the gaps of the cover layer in register by digital printing.

25. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 24, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the cover layer comprises a metal layer, ~~preferably a layer of aluminum, gold, copper, iron, nickel or an alloy containing one of said metals,~~ and the metal layer is applied by vapor deposition or by electron-beam vaporization.

26. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 24 ~~or 25, characterized in that~~ wherein the printed image is produced in the gaps by a virtual printing method selected from the group consisting of digital printing ~~method~~ such as ink jet, thermal sublimation or thermal transfer, a temporary digital printing method such as an electrophotographic method, ionography or magnetography, in particular by a toner-based printing method such as laser printing, ~~or by~~ and a liquid-ink method such as Indigo.